

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 02442 270002Z

21

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-20 AID-20 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 042700

R 262330Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7382

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: STRIKE AGAINST UNITED FRUIT SHOWS SIGNS OF
RESOLUTION

REF: SAN JOSE 2215

1. THE BANANA WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST UNITED FRUIT
ENTERED ITS 16TH DAY AMID NEW SIGNS THAT THE GOVERN-
MENT MAY BE ABLE TO MEDIATE A SETTLEMENT SOON. MINISTER
OF LABOR FRANCISCO MORALES, AFTER MEETINGS EARLIER THIS
WEEK WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER, VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS MANUEL CASTILLO
AND PLN LSGADER LUIS ALBERTO MONGE, RETURNED TO GOLFITO TODAY, JUNE 26

WITH A NEW MEDIATION PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO SETTLE THE
IMPORTANT WAGE IMPASSE AND GET THE WORKERS BACK IN THE
FIELDS WHILE IRONING OUT LATER THE REMAINING POINTS IN CON-
TENTION.

2. ALTHOUGH THE COMPANY HAS APPARENTLY NOT NOTICEABLY
SWEETENED ITS WAGE OFFER (REFTEL) THE NEGATIVE IMPACT
OF THE STRIKE ON THE ECONOMICS OF THE REGION IS BEGINNING
TO BE FELT. MOREOVER, THE COMMUNIST UTG (UNION DE TRABA-
JADORES DE GOLFITO), WHICH REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 02442 270002Z

BANANA WORKERS, HAS NEARLY EXHAUSTED ITS STRIKE FUND. WITH

THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF THE DIEHARD COMMUNIST DEPUTY FROM PUNTARENAS, ARNOLDO FERRETO, MOST UTG LEADERS ARE DISPOSED TO GET THEIR WORKERS BACK ON THE JOB BEFORE THE LOCAL REACTION TO THEIR STUBBORN POSITION CREATES A BACKLASH THAT COULD HURT THEM POLITICALLY IN THE UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. SUCH A NEGATIVE REACTION AS SEEMS TO BE DEVELOPING, WOULD PREJUDICE THE COMMUNISTS'S OTHERWISE QUITE GOOD CHANCES OF PICKING UP SOME SEATS IN THE UPCOMING SPECIAL ELECTIONS IN CORREDORES CANTON SCHEDULED FOR LATE JULY. THUKIPOLITICAL RATHER THAN ECONOMIC CRITERIA ARE NOW PRETTY MUCH DETERMINING THE UTG TACTICS WITH MOST GUESSING THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL DO BETTER IF THEY NOW AGREE TO ACCEPT WHAT THEY HAVE ALREADY WON FROM THE COMPANY.

3. UNITED FRUIT, FOR ITS PART, IS LOOKING VERY GOOD. ITS OFFER HAS BEEN MORE "UNDERSTANDING" (AND THIS IS PART OF THE TUG'S PROBLEM) THAN EXPECTED LARGELY DUE TO THE PERSONAL SENSITIVITIES AND SENSE OF ITS COSTA RICAN MANAGER FABIO CAMPOS. UNITED FRUIT'S FORTHCOMING POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS BEING DESCRIBED IN POLITICAL CIRCLES AS A CHARACTERISTIC OF A MANAGEMENT POSITION THAT MANY WOULD LIKE TO SEECOSTA RICAN COMPANIES EMULATE. LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, LABOR STRIKES, WAGE RATES, BANANAS, STRIKE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO02442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740169-0526
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740612/aaaaajqb.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAN JOSE 2215
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRIKE AGAINST UNITED FRUIT SHOWS SIGNS OF RESOLUTION
TAGS: ETRD, CS, UNITED FRUIT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005